

AN ANALYTIC MODEL OF OBSERVED SMALL SCALE
BAROCLINIC CURRENTS IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN

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THESIS

AN ANALYTIC MODEL OF OBSERVED
SMALL SCALE BAROCLINIC CURRENTS
IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN

by

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Thesis Advisor:

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September 1973

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Small Scale Baroclinic Currents
in the Arctic Ocean

by

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCEANOGRAPHY

from the
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
September 1973

ABSTRACT

An analytic model is developed of baroclinic currents measured by several investigators under the Arctic Ocean ice cover. A time-dependent, Boussinesq, quasi-geostrophic vorticity equation is developed to describe the flow. Separable normal mode solutions are found which show stationary current patterns qualitatively consistent with observed data. An initial value problem is then formulated using density perturbations at a newly forming lead as a forcing function.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wishes to sincerely thank Dr. Jerry A. Galt for the many hours spent discussing the formulation and development of the analysis used in this thesis, as well as for the benefit of Dr. Galt's background in the field of Arctic Ocean dynamics. The time spent in careful reading of the manuscript by Dr. R. G. Paquette was also greatly appreciated.

This thesis was done in conjunction with a scientific program under the general direction of J. A. Galt, sponsored by the Arctic Section of the Office of Naval Research (Research No. RR132-05-01 NR 307-345).

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH AND REVIEW OF PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The objective of this study was to develop an analytic model of specific small scale baroclinic current patterns which have been observed on a recurring basis beneath the Arctic ice cap. The patterns are termed small in that they are on a scale less than that of the general Arctic circulation. In order to develop the model a theoretical investigation was made of the baroclinic response of the Arctic Ocean to perturbations in its internal density structure at a newly forming lead.

It is worthwhile at this point to briefly discuss previous research in the area of Arctic dynamic modeling, and to describe the baroclinic currents measured by several investigators, in an effort to indicate the relationship of this study to previous work.

Investigations of Arctic Ocean dynamics can be classified by their scale as well as by the mode of motion described (either internal, surface, or a combined mode). The largest scale studied concerns processes which affect the entire ocean, such as long term mean ice drift and water circulation. In order to practically study motion on this scale, spacing between grid points cannot feasibly be less than tens of kilometers. This necessitates parameterizing some of the smaller scale processes occurring between grid points, rather than solving for them explicitly. Factors which must be

considered on this scale are the shape and bathymetry of the ocean basin, Coriolis effects, wind and ice stress, etc.

Several theoretical investigations of large scale Arctic Ocean dynamics which closely match observed patterns of water circulation and ice drift have been carried out in recent years. Among these, Campbell [1965] proposed a large scale analytic ice drift model and Galt [1973a] developed a working barotropic numerical model of overall surface water circulation. Both these models were concerned with surface motion or an equivalent barotropic circulation. A complete model of large scale internal Arctic circulation has not yet been published, but work along these lines is being carried out at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Princeton, New Jersey [Semtner, 1973].

The smallest scale of analysis concerns the short term local effects of phenomena such as refreezing leads and ice cracking. These effects result in dynamic processes such as forced convection due to the salt rejection and heat transfer during freezing. Grid size of concern here would be from less than a cm, a microscale, to a few meters. Coriolis effects would not be important at the smallest end of this scale but effects such as diffusion would have to be considered. Several investigators have done work on the problem of forced convection associated with freezing of sea ice.

Foster [1972] treated the problem analytically after having published several earlier papers on the problem of forced convection in the ocean. The initial state in his

study was a homogeneous under-ice layer. He then assumed density to be a function of salinity only and solved the equations of motion and salt diffusion directly associated with a refreezing lead. Using a two-dimensional model Foster carried his solution to the point of finding initial vertical velocities and length and depth scales for convection cells during the initial stages of convection. These were about 1.4 cm/sec for vertical velocities, 80 cm for horizontal convection cell spacing, and several cms for depth of convective penetration. He did not analytically consider further stages of convection nor did he continue to a larger scale in which Coriolis forces would become important. He did postulate a higher order of convection cells with depth penetration of up to 6 meters and vertical velocities of about 1 cm/sec.

Piascek [1970] considered the general problem of surface cooling effects on the ocean. He developed a numerical model for convection cells on both a small scale (order of cms) which neglected Coriolis effects and a larger scale (order of kms) which considered Coriolis. His model configuration was a rectangular box directly below the surface with an initially homogeneous structure. He considered uniform surface cooling as a boundary condition and then developed a vorticity equation in terms of a vector potential. This was numerically integrated over a 2-dimensional grid to give steady state temperature and vorticity patterns within his "box." With some modification his model could be adapted to describe Arctic under-ice convection.

Coachman [1966] considered a mass and energy balance on the layer of water immediately below the ice cover. He assumed a downward flow direction under the refreezing leads due to sinking of highly saline water and a compensating upward flow spread out over the area between leads, as shown in Figure 1. His study used mean values of freezing rate, temperatures, lead size and distance between leads to determine mean vertical velocity values. His scale of analysis was necessarily larger than that of Foster in order to arrive at mean velocities. His downward vertical velocity values are on the order of .01 to .08 cm/sec. The depth of his surface circulation layer was 100 meters. If the Arctic Ocean is viewed from a large scale standpoint, the net result of the investigations by Coachman, Foster, and Piascek would be to show that there is a small downward vertical velocity associated with each refreezing lead due to forced convection and that there is a local increase in the density of the water directly under a refreezing lead.

A related small scale problem which has been investigated is that of the ice formation rate and rates of salt rejection and heat transfer at a refreezing Arctic lead. Schaus [1971] developed a numerical model of a refreezing lead which treats these problems and which could be used in coupling the air-sea interaction problem with ice dynamics and with the under-ice convection problem discussed here.

A vertical velocity similar to that caused by the convective process may also arise from the initial cracking and ice motion during lead formation. This specific problem

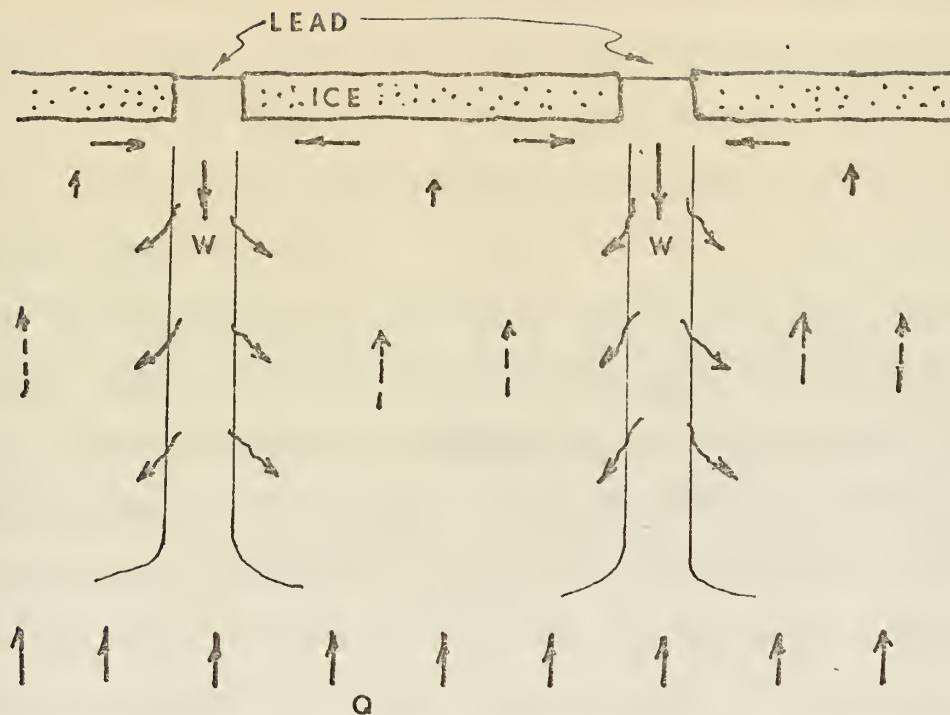


Figure 1. Schematic of Convection Model Proposed by Coachman [1966].

has not been previously studied. In this case the theory is as follows, assuming ice shears upon cracking over a period of a few days as shown in Figure 2. There is a stress imparted to the underlying water at the ice-water boundary, which in turn causes a convergence of the Ekman layer. This in turn results in an impulsive vertical velocity under the newly forming lead. The net result is that, for an entirely different reason, a vertical velocity similar to that caused by convection is associated with shear across newly forming leads. Both these lead-associated phenomena would be classed as small scale effects.

By interacting with the existing density and flow patterns these velocity and density perturbations may have some, as yet undetermined, effect on the large scale internal flow dynamics of the Arctic. A proposed theory for this is discussed and developed in part B of this section. Any resultant flow pattern due to such an interaction might then be expected on a scale intermediate in size between the smallest and largest scales discussed; on the order of meters in depth and meters to kilometers in length. A theoretical investigation of baroclinic internal flow in the Arctic on this scale has not previously appeared in the literature. It is important to note here that this is the scale of a number of internal current patterns or events measured in the Arctic.

The observed currents appear to be baroclinic in nature although a satisfactory theory for their origin has not yet

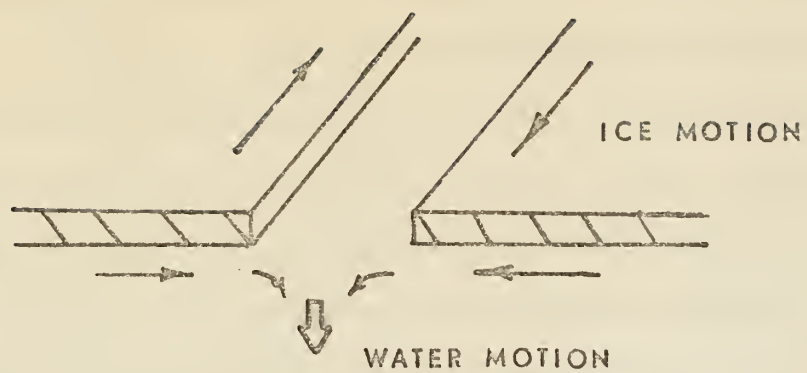


Figure 2. Proposed Shear Mechanism for Lead Formation.

been developed. An example of the vertical distribution of horizontal velocities measured by Galt [1967] under Ice Island T-3 is shown in Figure 3. The corresponding density distribution is also shown. Similar results found by Coachman and Newton [1973] are shown in Figure 4. It can be seen that a peak in the horizontal velocity occurs in the pycnocline, with a maximum at about 150 meters, indicating a baroclinic origin. Figure 5 shows the horizontal distribution of velocities found by Coachman and Newton at 150 meters. It is a plot of velocity vectors measured from one position on the ice while drifting over a given area. As can be seen, there is a periodic change in the velocity direction with an apparent wavelength of about 30 km. The reason for classing this periodicity as spatial rather than temporal is that the observed currents were found to be essentially in geostrophic balance. For this type feature, phase propagation speeds will be small compared to advective speeds. Figure 6 shows a vertical cross-section of velocities as reported by Coachman and Newton [1973].

A need thus exists for an investigation of the Arctic Ocean internal flow dynamics on the intermediate scale described. The immediate purposes of this study are to offer an explanation of the observed baroclinic currents. A further use of such a study is to couple the small scale phenomena to the overall circulation, which in turn may aid in the development of a three dimensional Arctic circulation model.

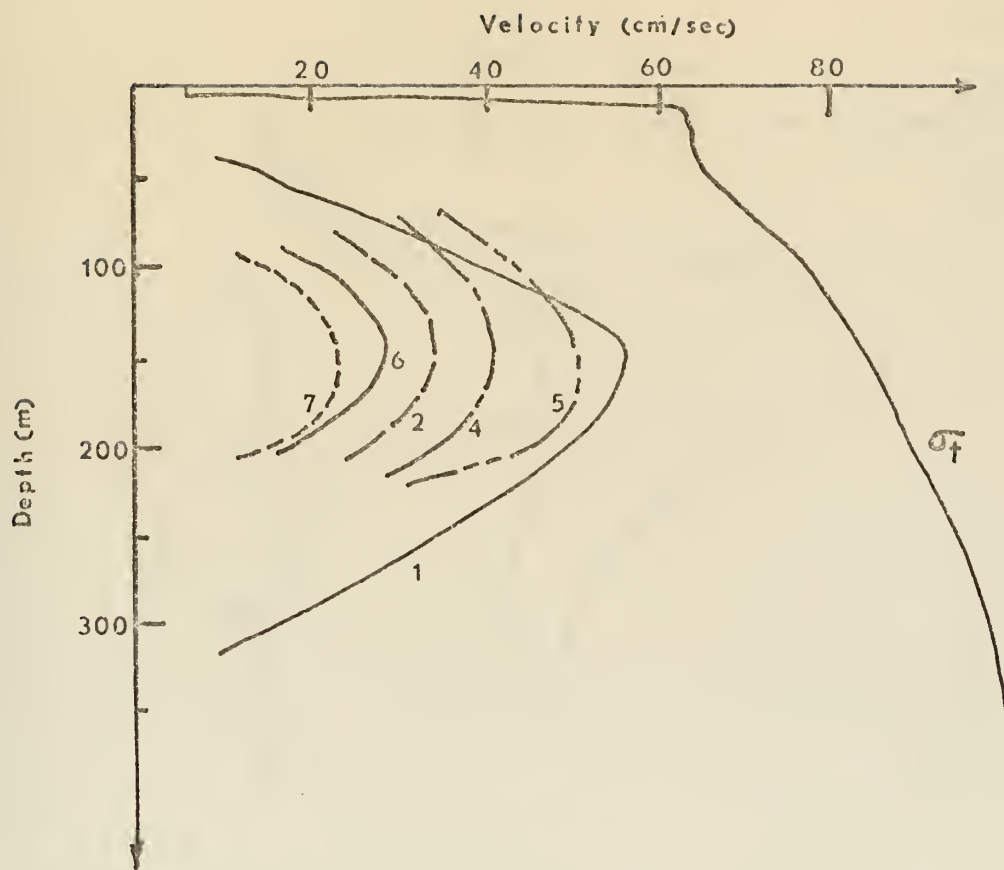


Figure 3. Vertical Distribution of Horizontal Velocities Measured by Galt [1967].

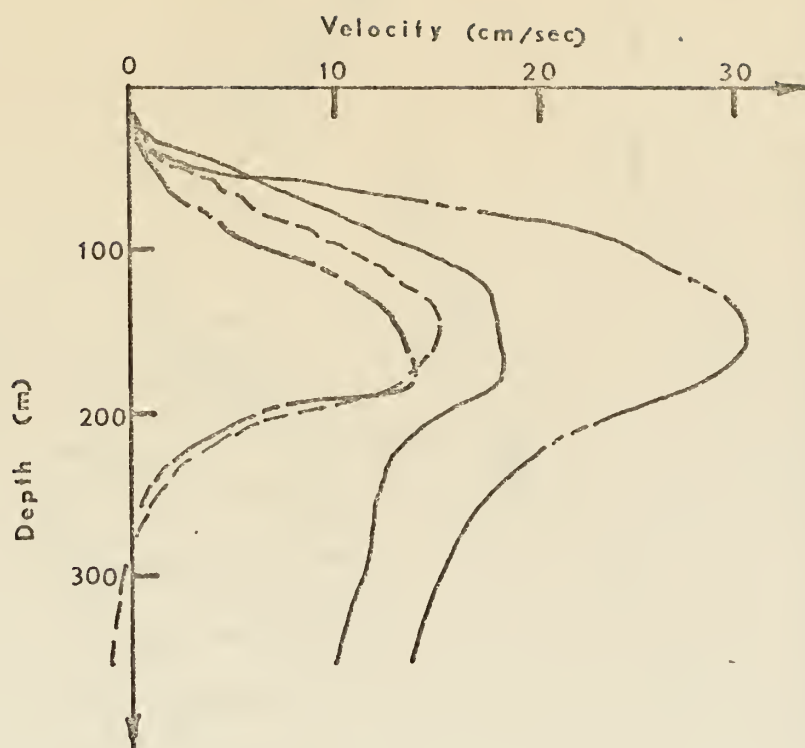


Figure 4. Vertical Distribution of Horizontal Velocities Measured by Coachman and Newton [1973].

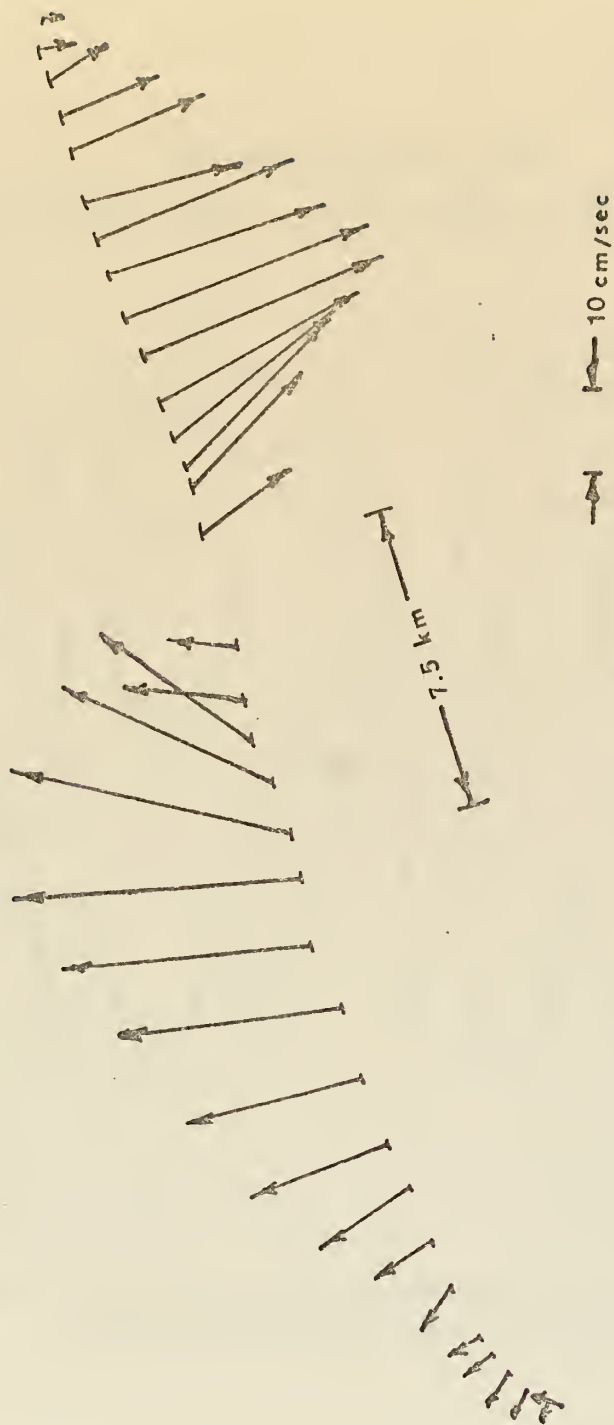


Figure 5. Horizontal Distribution of Horizontal Velocities Measured by Coachman and Newton [1973].

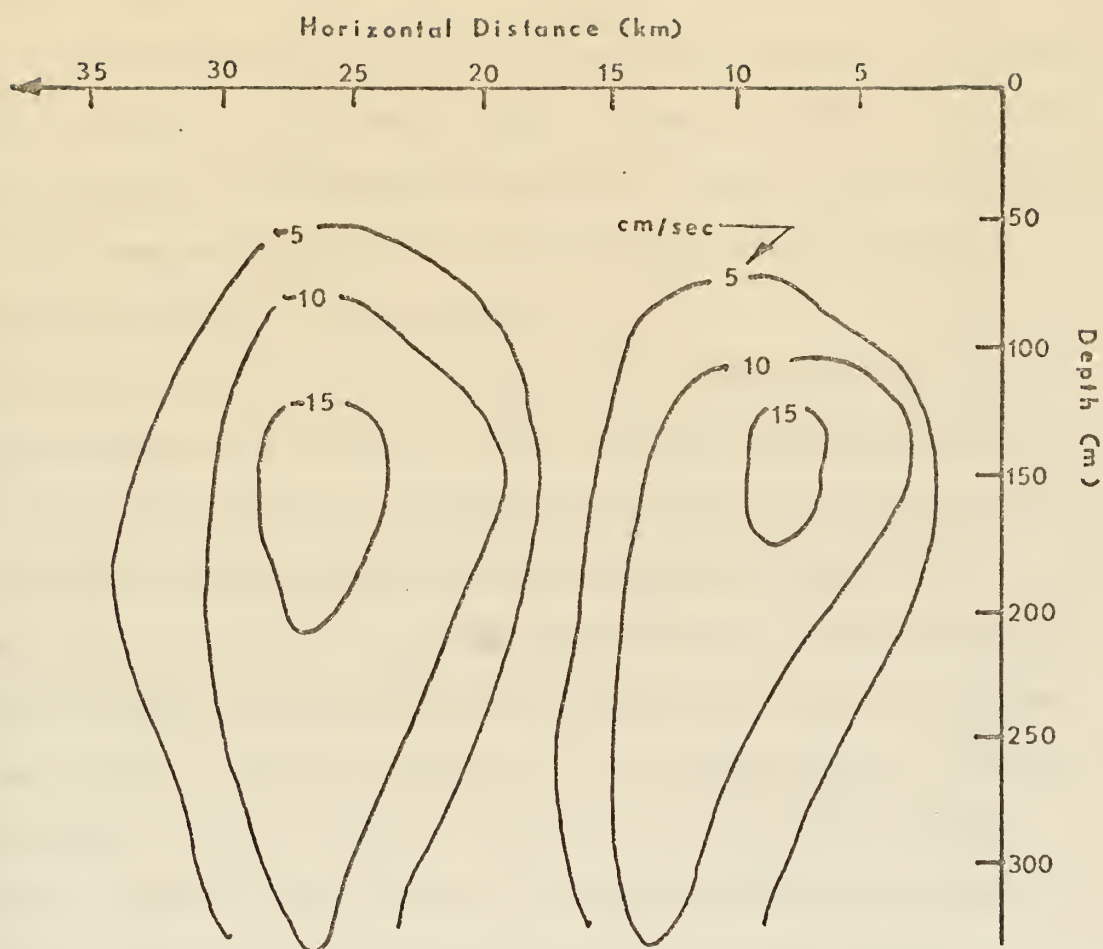


Figure 6. Vertical Section of Velocities Measured by Coachman and Newton [1973].

B. THEORY DEVELOPED IN THIS THESIS

A theory was postulated to describe the dynamic effects on the underlying ocean of a newly forming Arctic lead. The theory developed was begun with the premise that a small vertical velocity perturbation or density increase is created during the formation of each lead, caused by either refreezing or cracking, as described earlier. The scale of analysis used was tens of kms in the horizontal and the full depth of water (0-3000m) in the vertical.

The water directly below the Arctic ice cover can typically be expected to consist of a shallow homogeneous layer (20-50 m), under which a stably stratified density distribution exists. There is also some horizontal slope to the isopycnals in order to support a mean flow. The horizontal gradient will be several orders of magnitude less than that of the vertical density gradient in the pycnocline. Perturbations such as the vertical velocity and density changes occurring under a lead, which is a very small area on the assumed length scale, should distort the isopycnals over a relatively short period of time and short distance. This would act as an impulsive event on an overall time scale measured in days. As the isopycnals attempt to return to their stable condition, a transient waveform of some sort would then appear and propagate out from the lead.

The first problem would then be to find the form of the waves which can exist in a typical Arctic density structure and to then determine if these are consistent with observed

current patterns. Once this was done, a second problem would be an investigation to determine whether the perturbations at a lead could actually force these oscillations. An investigation of these two problems forms the basis of this thesis.

An indication of the possible validity of the work at any point is the degree of correlation of theoretically developed waves or currents with real data. A comparison was therefore made with the baroclinic currents measured by Galt [1967] and Coachman and Newton [1973] once a theoretical current pattern was developed.

The first step in substantiating the theory was to investigate the type of waves which could exist in the given density structure and to compare these with known data. This corresponded to treating the Arctic Ocean as a semi-enclosed system, subject to certain governing equations of motion and boundary conditions, and solving for its preferred modes of oscillation. The actual solution to this problem is the subject of Section II of this thesis. The general assumptions made in formulating the theory and the rationale behind them will be discussed here.

The equations used follow the development of Galt [1973b] which is based on that of Kuo [1973]. The basic difference from Kuo's development is in the formulation of the equation of state. The system was assumed to be inviscid, hydrostatic, and quasi-geostrophic. The equation of state assumes density proportional to salinity only. This is a reasonable approximation in the region being investigated as can be seen in Figure 7, which is a plot of salinity, temperature, and

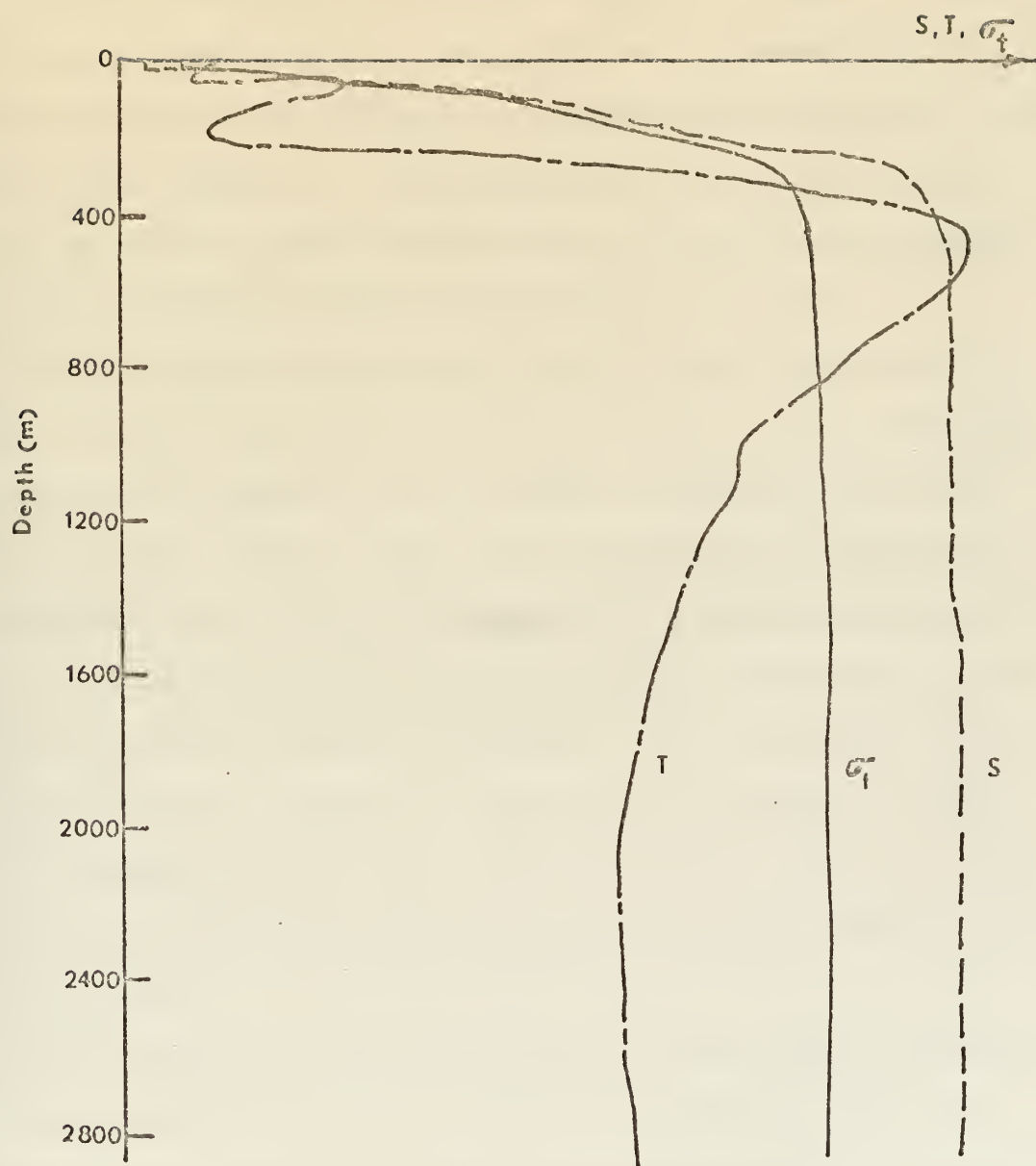


Figure 7. Observations of Salinity, Temperature and Density Taken Under Ice Island T-3.

density profiles taken under T-3 along with current measurements [Galt, 1967].

The Boussinesq approximation was also made, which states that density variations are significant only when the density is multiplied by gravity. An additional assumption necessary to this development is that the Rossby number is small. This allowed the expansion of the dependent variables as power series in terms of the Rossby number. Equations consistent in powers of Rossby number could then be derived.

From the above assumptions and the basic equations of motion a quasi-geostrophic vorticity equation was developed in terms of the perturbation pressure (pressure could be written as the sum of a mean and a perturbation quantity). This equation was solved by assuming a separable solution consisting of the product of a horizontal plane wave and an unknown vertical structure function. This vertical structure function was then solved for numerically subject to appropriate boundary conditions. Results of the numerical solution are compared with the measured currents in Section III of this thesis.

Investigation of the second problem described (whether the theoretical oscillations could actually be driven by perturbations found at a lead) was accomplished by using pressure conditions under a newly forming lead as an initial condition for the quasi-geostrophic vorticity equation developed in Section II. A description of this initial value problem forms Section IV of this thesis.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAVE SOLUTION

A. ANALYTIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE VORTICITY EQUATION

The initial formulation of the problem was carried out using a rectangular coordinate system, with positive values of x to the East, y to the North, and z upward. The governing equations of motion for the flow can be written in the following Boussinesq, inviscid form:

$$u_t + uu_x + vu_y + wu_z - fv = - \frac{1}{\rho_s} p_x \quad (1)$$

$$v_t + uv_x + vv_y + wv_z + fu = - \frac{1}{\rho_s} p_y \quad (2)$$

$$w_t + uw_x + vw_y + ww_z = - \frac{1}{\rho_s} p_z - \frac{\rho}{\rho_s} g \quad (3)$$

where u, v , and w are the x, y , and z velocity components, respectively, f is the vertical component of the Coriolis parameter, g is the acceleration of gravity, p is the pressure, ρ is the density and ρ_s is the horizontal space and time average of the density, which is a function of z only. In addition to the equations of motion, the continuity equation can be written as:

$$\rho_t + u\rho_x + v\rho_y + w\rho_z + \rho_s (u_x + v_y + w_z) = 0 \quad (4)$$

and the equation for conservation of salt, assuming a conservative law with no mixing, is:

$$s_t + us_x + vs_y + ws_z = 0 \quad (5)$$

Equations (1) through (5) can then be scaled and non-dimensionalized using essentially the same system as was used by Kuo [1973]. The non-dimensional quantities (primed) are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x,y) &= L(x',y'); & (u,v) &= U(u',v'); & (6) \\
 z &= Dz'; & w &= \left(\frac{R\bar{D}U}{L}\right) w'; \\
 t &= \left(\frac{U}{L}\right) t'; & f &= f_o f'; \\
 p &= p_s + f_o UL \rho_s \phi'; & \rho &= \rho_s (1 + \epsilon \rho'); \\
 s &= s_s (1 + \epsilon s');
 \end{aligned}$$

where L is a characteristic horizontal scale, D is a characteristic depth scale, U is a characteristic horizontal velocity and ρ_s and s_s are the static pressure and density fields respectively.

In addition the following non-dimensional coefficients are defined:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R &= \frac{U}{f_o L}, \quad \text{Rossby number;} & (7) \\
 \mu &= \frac{f_o^2 L^2}{gD}, \quad \text{a ratio of the scale length, } L, \text{ to the Rossby deformation length;} \\
 \epsilon &= \mu R, \quad \text{a measure of the perturbations in the thermodynamic quantities;} \\
 \delta_\rho &= \frac{1}{\rho_s} \frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial z}, \quad \text{a measure of the stability of the static density field;} \\
 \delta_s &= \frac{1}{s_s} \frac{\partial s_s}{\partial z}, \quad \text{a measure of the stability of the static salinity field.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Substitution from (6) into (1) and (2) then gives:

$$R(u'_t + u'u'_x + v'u'_y + R w'u'_z) - f'v' = -\phi'_x, \quad (8)$$

$$R(v'_t + u'v'_x + v'v'_y + R w'v'_z) + f'u' = -\phi'_y, \quad (9)$$

and substitution from (7) into (4) gives:

$$R^2 \left(\frac{D}{L} \right) (w'_t + u'w'_x + v'w'_y + R w'w'_z) = -\phi'_z - \delta_\rho \phi' - \rho' \quad (10)$$

providing that the hydrostatic relationship for the steady state density and pressure fields is used, as given by:

$$(p_s)_z = -\rho_s g.$$

Then, substitution of (6) into (4) gives:

$$\epsilon(\rho'_t + u'\rho'_x + v'\rho'_y + R w'\rho'_z) + \frac{R}{\rho_s} (w'\rho_s)_z + u'_x + v'_y = 0 \quad (11)$$

Finally, substitution from (6) into (5) gives:

$$R(s'_t + u's'_x + v's'_y + R w's'_z + \left(\frac{\delta s}{\mu} \right) w') = 0 \quad (12)$$

Equations (8) through (12) can then be simplified by considering limitations which occur in the real ocean:

$$\frac{D}{L} \ll 1 \quad \text{used in eq. (10)} \quad (13)$$

$$\epsilon = \mu R \ll R \quad \text{used in eq. (11)} \quad (14)$$

and by assuming a simplified equation of state relating density to salinity:

$$\rho = s$$

or, in a non-dimensional form for the perturbation quantities:

$$\rho' = s'; \quad \delta_\rho = \delta_s = 0(R). \quad (15)$$

Using eq. (15), the non-dimensional equations become
(omitting primes from here on):

$$R(u_t + uu_x + vu_y + Rwu_z) - fv = -\phi_x \quad (16)$$

$$R(v_t + uv_x + vv_y + Rwv_z) + fu = -\phi_y \quad (17)$$

$$\phi_z + \delta_\rho \phi + s = 0 \quad (18)$$

$$u_x + v_y + \frac{R}{\rho_s} (w\rho_s)_z = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$R(s_t + us_x + vs_y + Rws_z + \left(\frac{\delta_\rho}{\mu}\right) w) = 0 \quad (20)$$

At this point the assumption of a small Rossby number, R , will be used and dependent variables expanded in a power series form; i.e., u , v , ϕ , and s will take the form:

$$\alpha = \sum_{n=0} R^n \alpha_n \quad (21)$$

where the α represents the general dependent variable and w will be written as:

$$w = w_1 + R w_2 + R^2 w_3 + \dots \text{etc.}$$

This is consistent with the scaling given by equation (6). In addition, the Coriolis parameter will be scaled on a beta-plane:

$$f_0 = 1 + \beta y \quad (22)$$

where

$$\beta y \leq 0(R) \quad (23)$$

Using these approximations plus eq. (15) and the series

expansion gives the following equations to zero order in Rossby number:

$$-v_o = -\phi_{o_x} \quad (24)$$

$$u_o = -\phi_{o_y} \quad (25)$$

$$\phi_{o_z} = -s_o \quad (26)$$

$$u_{o_x} + v_{o_y} = 0 \quad (27)$$

These show the flow to be geostrophic, hydrostatic, and horizontally non-divergent to a zeroth order approximation. The equations to first order in Rossby number are:

$$u_{o_t} + u_o u_{o_x} + v_o u_{o_y} - v_l - \beta y v_o = -\phi_{l_x} \quad (28)$$

$$v_{o_t} + u_o v_{o_x} + v_o v_{o_y} + u_l + \beta y u_o = -\phi_{l_y} \quad (29)$$

$$\phi_{l_z} = -\delta \rho \phi_o - s_l \quad (30)$$

$$u_{l_x} + v_{l_y} + \frac{1}{\rho_s} (w_l \rho_s)_z = 0 \quad (31)$$

$$s_{o_t} + u_o s_{o_x} + v_o s_{o_y} + \left(\frac{\delta \rho}{\mu} \right) w_l = 0 \quad (32)$$

To eliminate the first order pressure terms from (28) and (29) the equations are cross-differentiated and subtracted, resulting in:

$$\begin{aligned} (v_{o_x} - u_{o_y})_t + u_o (v_{o_x} - u_{o_y}) + v_o (v_{o_x} - u_{o_y}) + (v_{o_x} - u_{o_y}) (u_{o_x} + v_{o_y}) \\ + (u_{l_x} + v_{l_y}) + \beta y (u_{o_x} + v_{o_y}) + \beta v_o = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Then, substitution from (27) and (31) into (33) results in:

$$\begin{aligned} & (v_{ox} - u_{oy})_t + u_o(v_{ox} - u_{oy}) + v_o(v_{ox} - u_{oy}) \\ & - \frac{1}{\rho_s} (w_l \rho_s)_z + \beta v_o = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Equation (32) is rewritten in the following form:

$$(w_1 \rho_s) + \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta} \right) (s_{ot} + u_o s_{ox} + v_o s_{oy}) = 0 \quad (35)$$

Substitution of (26) into (35) (noting that $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \neq f(x,y,t)$) gives:

$$(w_1 \rho_s) = \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{oz} \right)_t + u_o \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{oz} \right)_x + v_o \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{oz} \right)_y \quad (36)$$

and differentiating this with respect to z gives:

$$\begin{aligned} (w_1 \rho_s)_z = & \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{Oz} \right)_{zt} + u_O \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{Oz} \right)_{zx} + v_O \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{Oz} \right)_{zy} \\ & + u_{Oz} \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{Oz} \right)_x + v_{Oz} \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_{Oz} \right)_y \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

which can then be substituted directly into (34). In writing this it is helpful to define all of the velocities in terms of the pressure, assuming a geostrophic relationship (this assumption filters out gravity waves).

$$\begin{aligned} u_O &= -\phi_{O_Y} & v_O &= \phi_{O_X} \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

$$(v_{o_x} - u_{o_y}) = \phi_{xx} + \phi_{yy}$$

From these it can be seen that the last two terms in (37)

identically cancel. Then, substitution of (37) and (38) into (34) and dropping all zero subscripts gives:

$$q_t + \phi_x q_y - \phi_y q_x = 0 \quad (39)$$

where:

$$q = \phi_{xx} + \phi_{yy} + \beta y - \frac{1}{\rho_s} \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} \phi_z \right)_z \quad (40)$$

Equation (39) is the quasi-geostrophic vorticity equation and (40) is the potential vorticity. The first two terms on the right hand side of (40) constitute the relative vorticity. The third term is the contribution due to the variation in the Coriolis parameter, and the last term represents the vorticity contributed by vertical stretching of the water column. Equation (39) shows that time-dependent motion will result when the motion is such as to create a change in potential vorticity. For the initial problem studied here, the Coriolis parameter, β , was assumed to be non-zero and the resultant motion investigated. It should be noted that as the North pole is approached, β approaches zero, but that motion could still be driven by bathymetric variations.

Assuming a separable wave solution of the form:

$$\phi = Z(z) e^{i(kx+ly-\sigma t)} \quad (41)$$

leads to the following Sturm-Liouville problem for the vertical dependence:

$$\frac{1}{\rho_s} \left(\frac{\mu \rho_s}{\delta \rho} Z_z \right)_z + \left[k^2 + l^2 + \frac{\beta k}{\sigma} \right] Z = 0 \quad (42)$$

Substituting from eq. (7) for μ and δ_ρ , using the fact that the Brunt-Väisälä frequency, N , is given by $\left[-\frac{g}{\rho_s} \frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial z} \right]^{1/2}$ and converting back to a dimensional form results in:

$$\frac{f_o^2}{\rho_s} \left[\rho_s \frac{z}{N^2} \right]_z - \left[k^2 + l^2 + \frac{\beta k}{\sigma} \right] z = 0 \quad (43)$$

B. EQUATION USING ARCTIC DENSITY PROFILE

1. Basic State Description

In this initial formulation zero mean flow was assumed, thus the initial density distribution was assumed to be a function of depth only. The Arctic under-ice density profile was approximated by a homogeneous upper layer from the surface to $z = -h$, below which density increased following an exponential curve. In this lower layer density increases such that it asymptotically approaches a constant, ρ_d , at deeper depths. This distribution is similar to that proposed by Reid [1948], in his equatorial model, and is given analytically by:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_s &= \rho_h & (0 \geq z \geq -h) \\ \rho_s &= \rho_d - (\rho_d - \rho_h) e^{1/c(z+h)} & (z < -h) \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

which is illustrated in Figure 8 for various values of c and h (referred to hereafter as layer depth (h) and e-fold depth (c)). Actual density values taken during the collection of velocity data are also shown on Figure 8 for comparison. As can be seen, the best data fit is with an e-fold depth of between 100 and 120 meters and a layer depth of 30 meters.

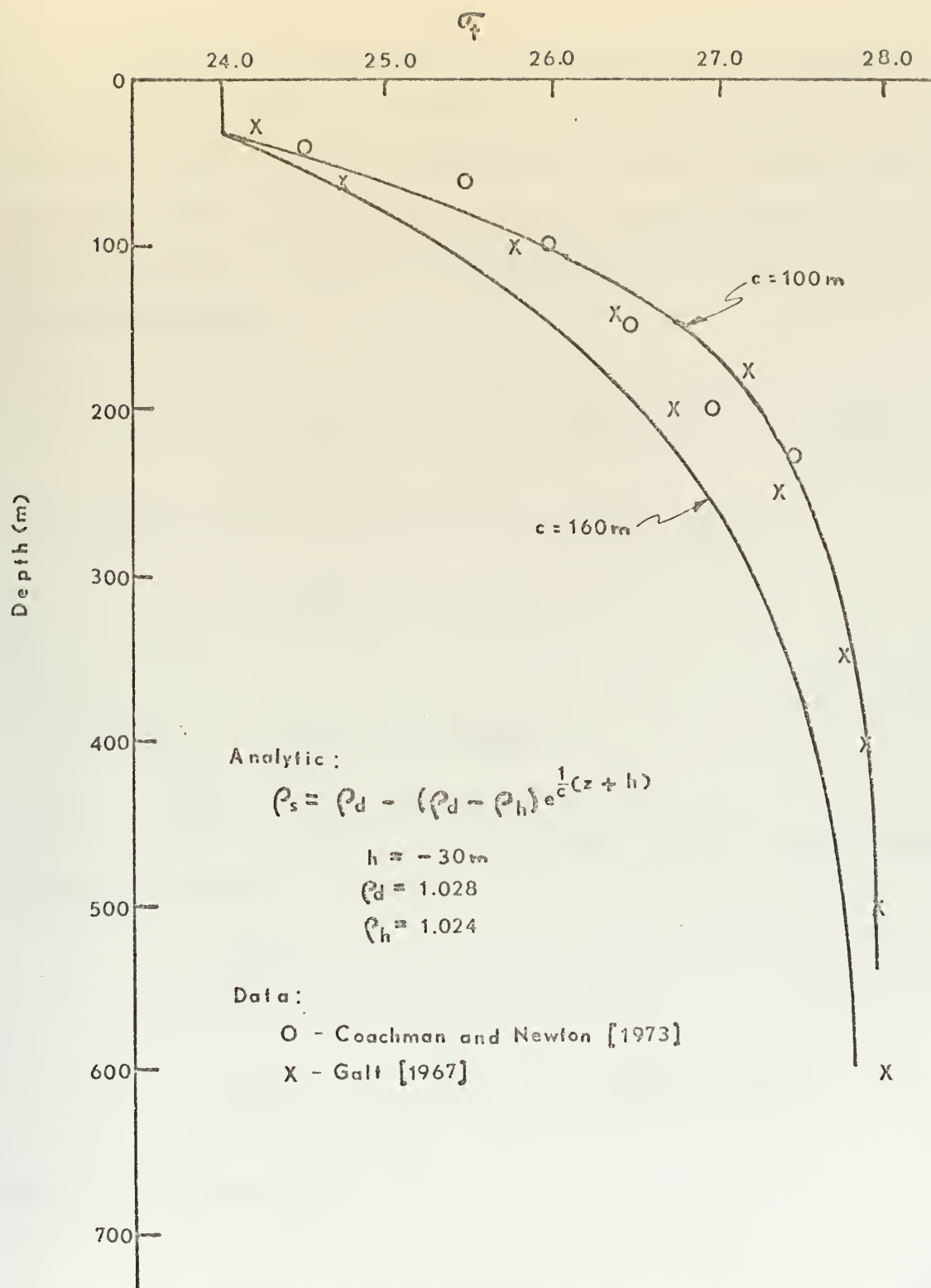


Figure 8. Depth Distribution of Analytic Density Function Showing Relation to Data.

2. Use of Actual Density Distribution in Equations

The density distribution given by eq. (44) was substituted into eq. (43) to produce a vertical normal mode equation which would apply to this specific density structure. To show this, eq. (43) is first expanded in terms of ρ_s and its derivatives:

$$\frac{f_o^2}{g} \left[\frac{\rho_s}{\rho_{s_z}} z_{zz} + 2z_z - \left[\frac{\rho_s \rho_{s_{zz}}}{(\rho_{s_z})^2} \right] z_z \right] + \left[k^2 + l^2 + \frac{\beta k}{\sigma} \right] z = 0 \quad (45)$$

The derivatives of ρ_s are found from eq. (44) as:

$$\rho_{s_z} = \frac{-(\rho_d - \rho_h)}{c} e^{1/c(z+h)} \quad (46)$$

$$\rho_{s_{zz}} = \frac{-(\rho_d - \rho_h)}{c^2} e^{1/c(z+h)}$$

which can then be substituted into eq. (44) to yield, after some rearrangement of terms:

$$z_{zz} - \left[\frac{2(\rho_d - \rho_h)}{\rho_s c} e^{1/c(z+h)} + \frac{1}{c} \right] z_z - \frac{g}{f_o^2 c} (\rho_d - \rho_h) \left[k^2 + l^2 + \frac{\beta k}{\sigma} \right] e^{1/c(z+h)} z = 0 \quad (47)$$

This can be simplified to:

$$z_{zz} - \left[A e^{1/c(z+h)} + B \right] z_z + \lambda e^{1/c(z+h)} z = 0 \quad (48)$$

where:

$$A = \frac{2(\rho_d - \rho_h)}{\rho_s c} \quad (49)$$

$$B = \frac{1}{c} \quad (49)$$

$$\lambda = - \frac{g}{f_o^2 c \rho_s} (\rho_d - \rho_h) \left[k^2 + l^2 + \frac{\beta k}{\sigma} \right]$$

The solutions to eq. (48) will then be a set of eigenfunctions describing the vertical distribution of the pressure function, ϕ . It is noted that this equation only applies to the region below the layer depth. In the upper homogeneous region horizontal velocities will be constant since there is no stratification. Vertical boundary conditions on the system are that w , the vertical velocity, is equal to zero at both the surface (ice) and bottom boundaries. In addition, velocities are assumed to be continuous across the internal boundary at $z = -h$. If these boundary conditions are met and a solution to eq. (48) exists there will be solutions for different discrete values of λ , the eigenvalues for this equation.

A value of either k or σ may then be assumed and used with the eigenvalues to solve for the corresponding values of σ or k for each mode. In order to actually solve for both k and σ some initial distribution for ϕ must be known and matched. This is the initial value problem, based on the perturbation at a lead, which is the next phase of the study and is discussed in Section IV.

The problem being discussed here was formulated with the assumption of a long narrow lead aligned in a North-South direction. Thus $x_1 \ll y_1$, where x_1 and y_1 are the East-West

and North-South dimensions of the lead, respectively. Based on this it was then assumed that no changes occur in the y direction ($\partial/\partial y = 0$) which in turn means that l is assumed to be zero in eqs. (41) and (43) and that $u = -\partial\phi/\partial y = 0$. The equations thus become two-dimensional. A horizontal boundary condition at time zero of $v = 0$ at the origin, which is placed in the center of the lead, is then imposed. The horizontal velocity can be written as:

$$v = \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = ikZ(z)e^{i(kx-\sigma t)}$$

or:

$$v = kZ(z)[C_1\cos(kx-\sigma t) + C_2\sin(kx-\sigma t)]$$

For $v(0,0) = 0$, C_1 must equal zero or:

$$v = kZ(z)\sin(kx-\sigma t) \tag{50}$$

This means that ϕ can be written as:

$$\phi = Z(z)\cos(kx-\sigma t)$$

From eq. (36) w can be written as:

$$w = \frac{\mu\rho_s}{\delta_\rho} Z_z \sin(kx-\sigma t)$$

which becomes:

$$w = \frac{f}{N^2} Z_z \sin(kx-\sigma t) \tag{52}$$

when the terms are dimensionalized and proper substitutions made for μ and δ_ρ . Assuming a value for k is known, an expression for σ can then be derived from eq. (49):

$$\sigma = \frac{-\beta k}{\frac{f_o^2 c \rho_s \lambda}{g(\rho_d - \rho_h)} + k^2} \quad (53)$$

This is similar to the equation for the frequency of a barotropic Rossby wave, $\sigma_b = \beta/k$, with the additional term in the denominator being due to the stratification.

III. RESULTS OF WAVE SOLUTION AND COMPARISON WITH ACTUAL DATA

A. NUMERICAL SOLUTION OF THE VERTICAL MODE EQUATION

The vertical mode equation (48) was rewritten using a normalized depth variable, $0 \geq z' \geq -1.0$, as:

$$Z_{zz} - D(Ae^{DB(z'+h/D)} + B)Z_z - \lambda'e^{DB(z'+h/D)}Z = 0 \quad (54)$$

where $\lambda' = D^2\lambda$ and $D = \text{depth of water}$.

Equation (54) was solved numerically on the Naval Post-graduate School IBM/360 computer. The solution was found using a Milne predictor-corrector method, according to an algorithm described by Nielsen [1964]. The depth range was divided into 2000 increments and then the Milne method used from the bottom, $z' = -1.0$, upward to the normalized layer depth, $z' = -h/D$. The Milne method section of the numerical solution was then tested by using it to solve a zero order Bessel equation which had a known analytic solution. Results of this test were satisfactorily checked with a table of Bessel functions.

In the relatively thin homogeneous region above the layer depth, the slope of the vertical velocity was held at its layer depth value, as was the value of the vertical structure function, Z . The output of the numerical scheme was a set of 2000 values of Z and Z_z from $z' = -1.0$ to $z' = 0$, for a given λ' . The vertical distribution of horizontal velocity is proportional to Z as was shown by eq. (50). From eq. (52) it

can be seen that the vertical dependence of vertical velocity, w , is proportional to z_z/N^2 . The numerical scheme could thus be used to give the vertical dependence of both horizontal and vertical velocities.

The bottom boundary condition, $w = 0$ at $z' = -1.0$, was met by setting $z_z(-1.0) = 0$. This was valid since w is proportional to z_z/N^2 and since $N^2(-1.0)$, although quite small, is not identically zero. With the bottom boundary condition thus fixed, the condition $w = 0$ at $z' = 0$ could only be met for certain values of λ' . These values are the eigenvalues corresponding to the normal modes of oscillation of the ocean with the given vertical density distribution. In order to find the correct eigenvalues an initial λ' was assumed. An iterative process was then begun in which the numerical method described earlier was used to arrive at a value of $w(0)$ for each new value of λ' . The initial value chosen for λ' was then increased in steps until the value of $w(0)$ changed sign. At that point a Regula-Falsi method (eq. (55) below) was used to find the next λ' .

$$\lambda'_{n+1} = \frac{\lambda'_{n-1} w_n(0) - \lambda'_n w_{n-1}(0)}{w_n(0) - w_{n-1}(0)} \quad (55)$$

This was continued until the value of $w(0)$ was sufficiently close to zero. The value of λ' at that point was then considered an eigenvalue. The process was continued by increasing the value of λ' in steps until the next eigenvalue was found in the same manner.

B. RESULTS OF THEORETICAL DEVELOPMENT

Figures 9 and 10 show the vertical distribution of horizontal and vertical velocities which result from the numerical solution of eq. (54) for a given density distribution ($h=30$, $c=120$). The first four normal modes are shown in each figure. Velocity values plotted are not absolute values but are relative to the horizontal velocity at the bottom for each mode. The ratio of $w(z)$ to $v(D)$ was computed using σ and k values corresponding to a wavelength of 30 km. As can be seen on these graphs, the vertical velocity would be insignificant for a horizontal velocity on the order of cm/sec or larger. This means the only measurable motion would be in the horizontal direction.

Figure 11 shows the effect of a change in the density distribution layer depth on the horizontal velocity distribution. The second mode only is shown since effects on other modes are similar. The values chosen, 20 and 50 meters, represent the normal seasonal variation in the thickness of the under-ice layer. As can be seen, very little change in the velocity distribution results.

Figure 12 shows the effect on the second mode of a change in the curvature (e-fold depth, c) of the below layer density distribution. This shows that as the e-fold depth increases (decrease in curvature), the velocity peak is less marked and occurs at a deeper depth.

Frequencies were solved for by using eq. (53) with an assumed horizontal wavelength of 30 km. Results were on the

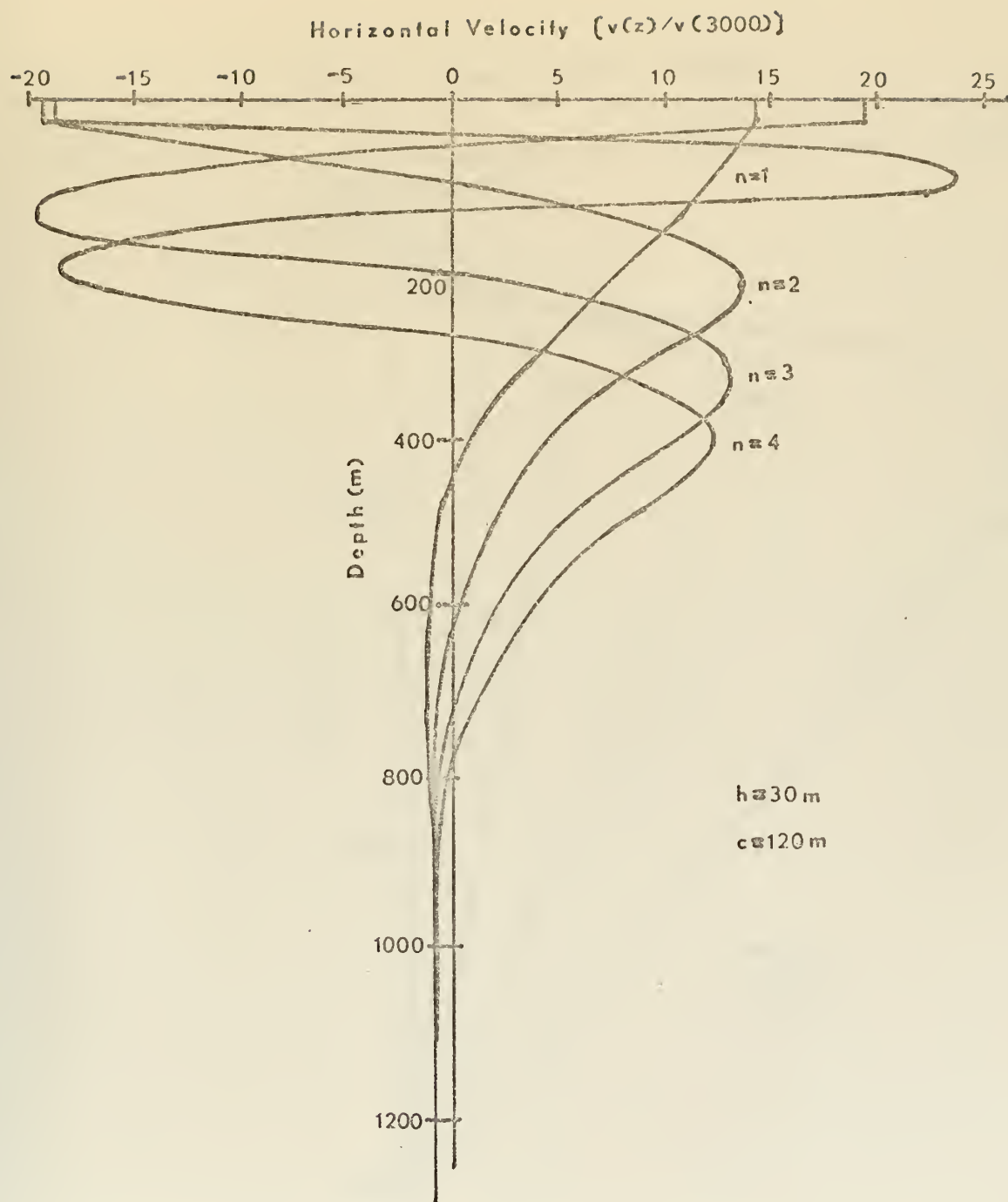


Figure 9. Vertical Structure of Theoretical Horizontal Velocity Patterns for Modes 1 through 4.

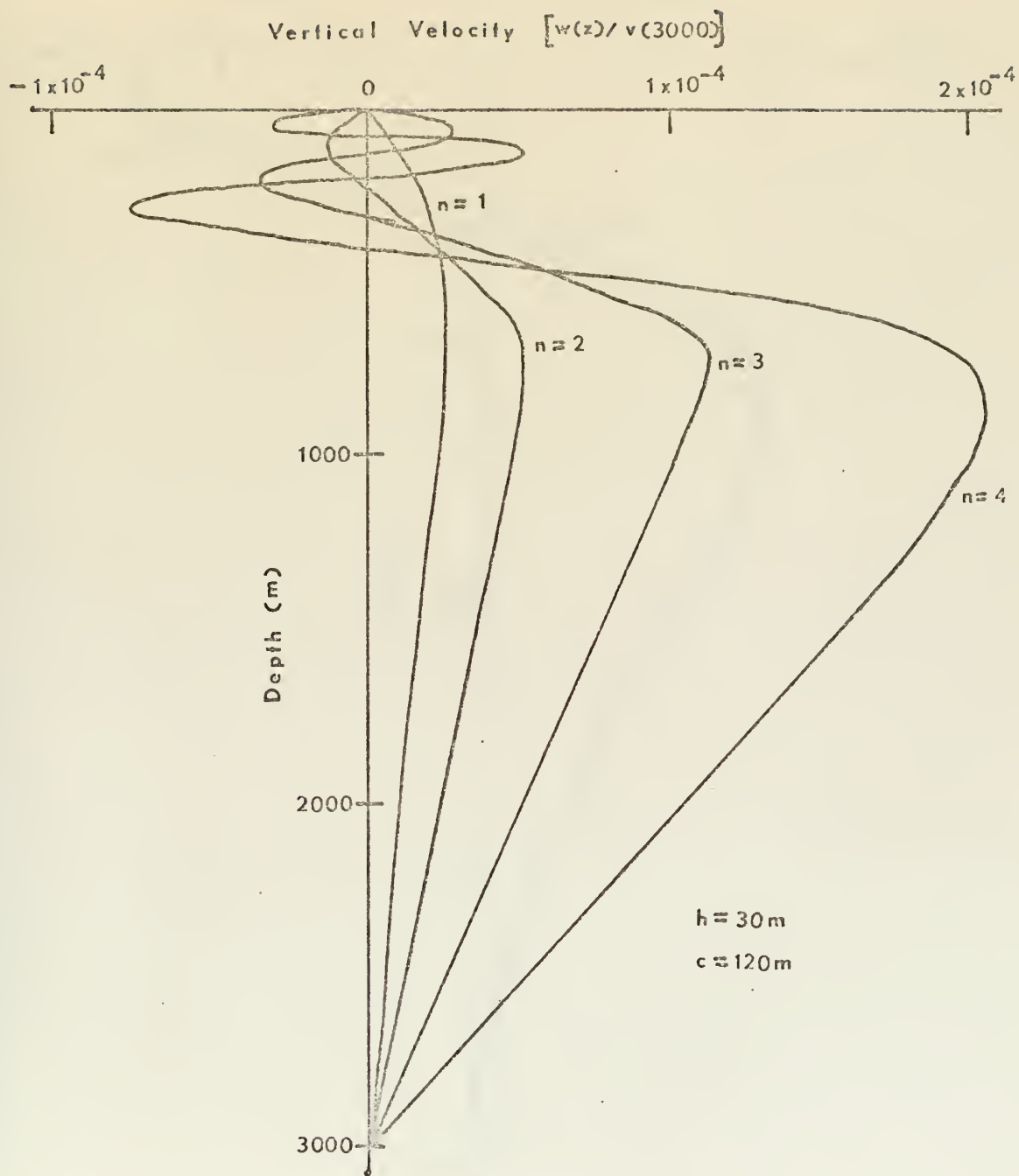


Figure 10. Vertical Structure of Theoretical Vertical Velocity Patterns for Modes 1 through 4.

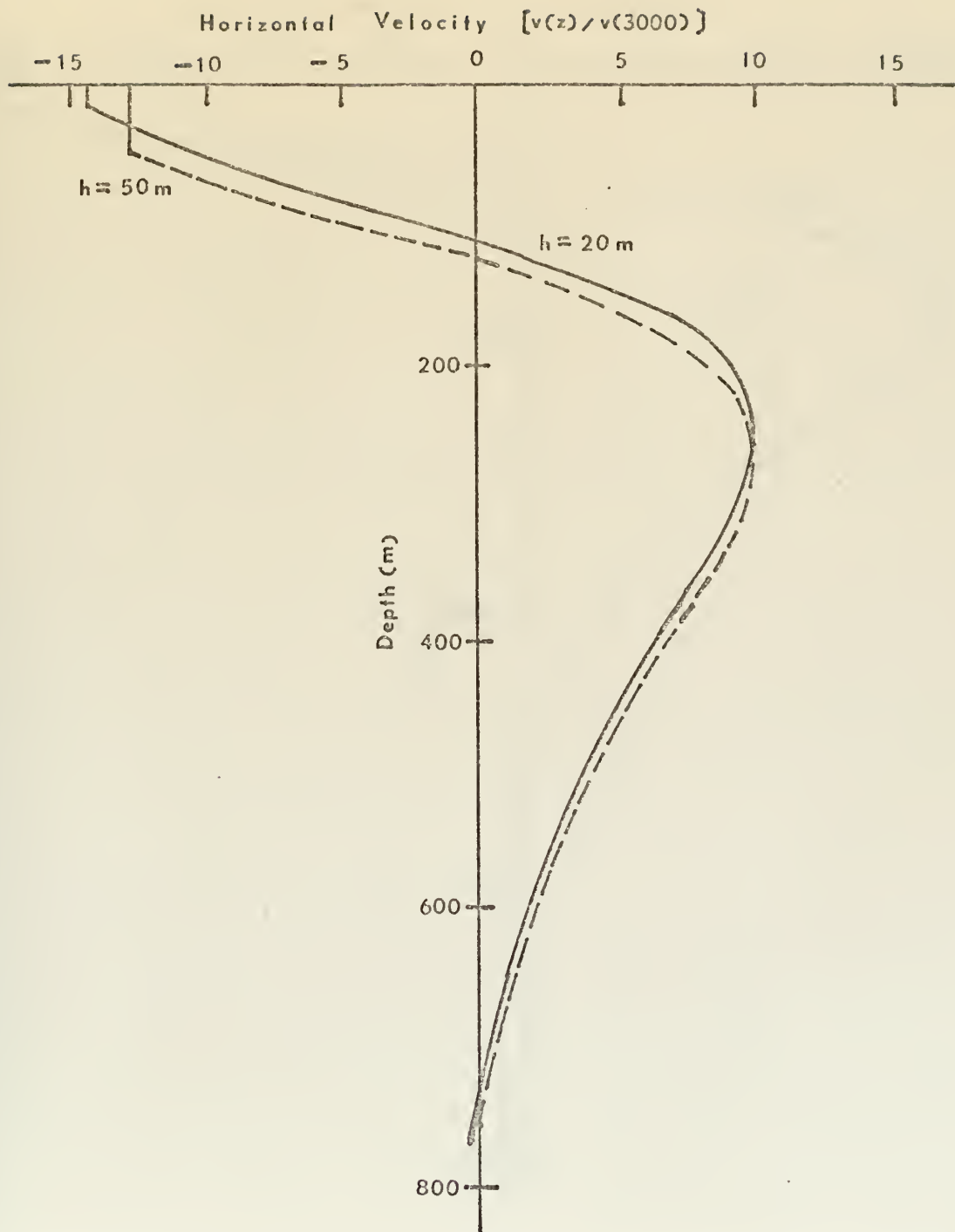


Figure 11. Effect of Layer Depth Change on Vertical Structure.

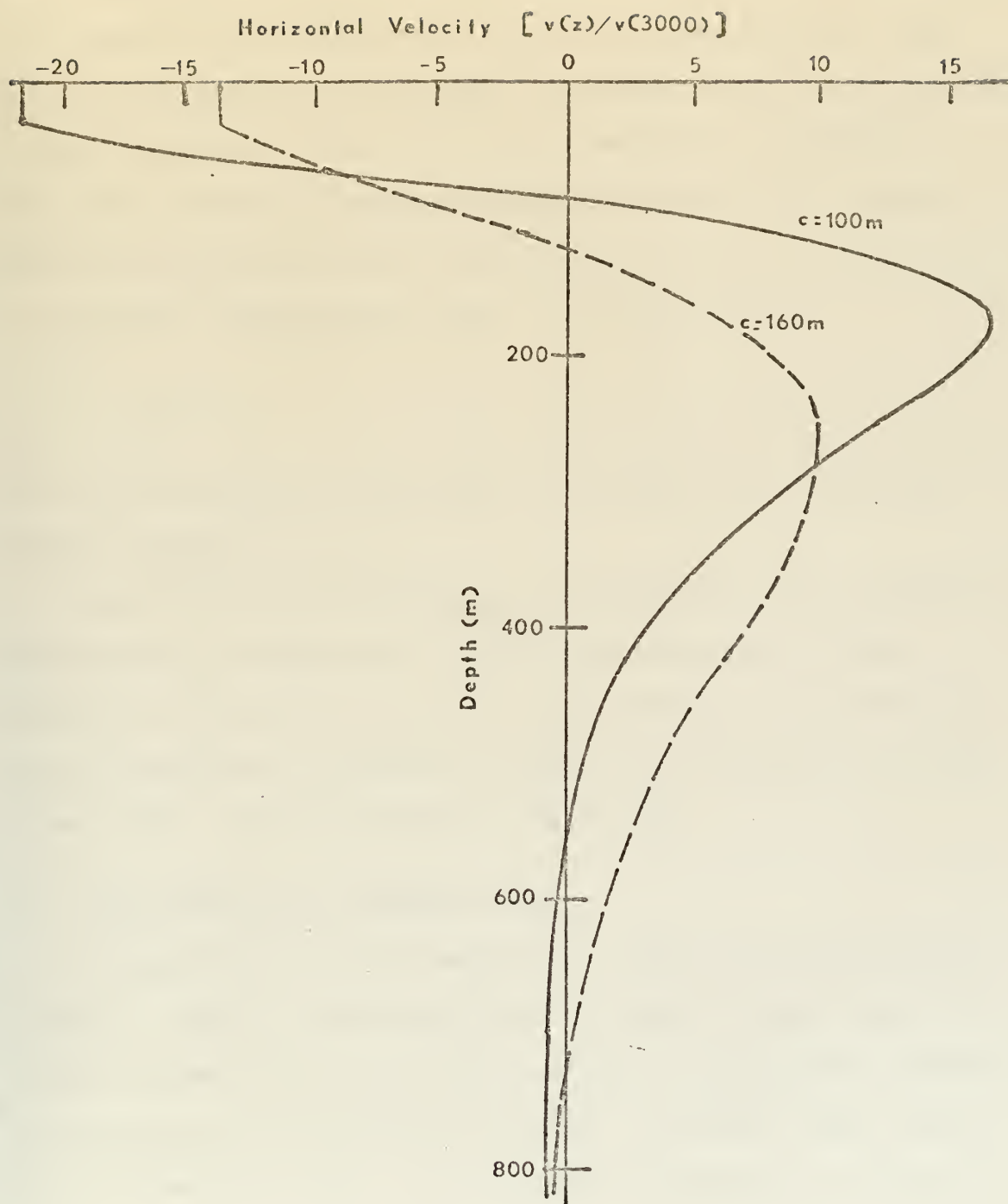


Figure 12. Effect of Varying e-fold Depth in Density Distribution on Vertical Structure.

order of 10^{-8} sec^{-1} or less, which corresponds to periods of tens of years. These values indicate the current patterns are essentially stationary. As can be seen from eq. (53) either a decrease in wavelength (increase in k) or an increase in mode (higher λ) will cause the frequency to decrease. Thus the limiting, highest possible frequency for a given density distribution and horizontal wavenumber is for $\lambda = 0$, a barotropic Rossby wave mode, and is given by:

$$\sigma_b = \frac{\beta}{k}$$

For a wavelength of 30 km this corresponds to a period of about 10 years.

The horizontal distribution of velocities was arrived at by assuming a length of 15 km to the first zero of the $\sin(kx - \sigma t)$ function of eq. (50) and forming the product of this trigonometric function and the $Z(z)$ function at a constant depth. This is shown in Figure 13.

C. COMPARISON WITH OBSERVED DATA

A comparison of the theoretical normal modes plotted in Figure 9 with the observed data in Figure 2 shows that the second normal mode most nearly matches the measured vertical distribution of horizontal velocity. The only real discrepancy between the two is the relative maximum in the theoretical distribution at the surface. This appears to be an inherent characteristic of the theoretical solution and is seen in each of the normal modes. One possible explanation is that these theoretical maxima were caused by treatment of

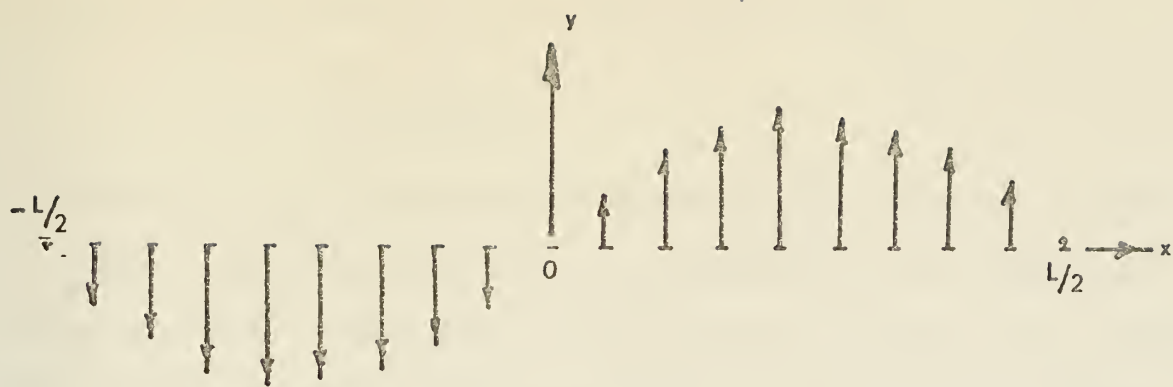


Figure 13. Horizontal Distribution of Theoretical Horizontal Velocities.

the under-ice surface as flat and frictionless in the development. The ice actually has a rough surface capable of dissipating some energy of relatively slow moving currents.

A second explanation is that more than one mode exists with a progressively decreasing amount of energy in successively higher modes. Thus if $v_n(z)$ represents the horizontal velocity distribution for a given mode, then:

$$v(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n v_n(z),$$

where $a_n > a_{n+1}$, would describe the actual velocity distribution. Assuming further, as a simplistic first approach, that the only significant a_n are for $n=1$ and $n=2$ (i.e., only the first two modes contain significant energy) the linear combination of modes 1 and 2 was plotted in Figure 14. The a_1 and a_2 were sized to give zero velocity at the surface, meaning a_2 was less than a_1 . Figure 14 can be seen to be closer to the observed data than the second mode alone. Obviously a more rigorous solution for the coefficients could be used to get an even closer fit to the data. This, however would not be physically meaningful. The purpose of this initial investigation was merely to show that the theoretical development would allow motion similar to what has been observed. This has been shown. The next phase of the investigation, which will be discussed in Section IV of this thesis, is to study the initial value problem of how this specific ocean system responds to the initial perturbations in its density structure caused by a newly forming lead (i.e., which normal modes, if any, are excited).

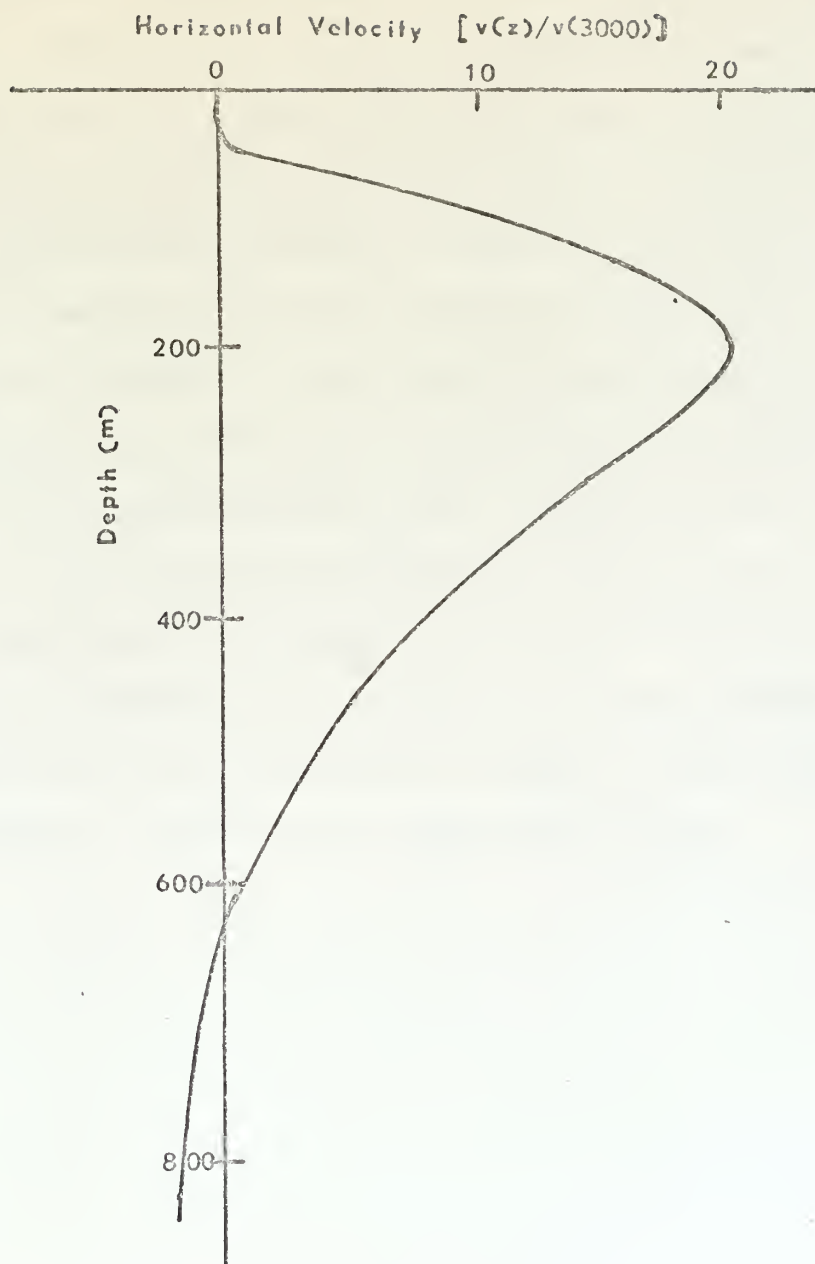


Figure 14. Linear Sum of Modes 1 and 2 for $h = 30$, $c = 120$.

In order to compare real and theoretical distributions more closely, a vertical cross-section through the origin was drawn showing theoretical horizontal velocity values, Figure 15. This was done for the second normal mode for a density distribution having $h=30$ and $c=120$, and for the simple horizontal distribution of Figure 13. Thus Figure 15 could be compared with Figure 4, which is drawn for real current data having a similar density distribution. A similarity can be seen in the general flow direction and in the shape of the isolines. Apart from the relative smoothness of the theoretical plot, the only significant difference is in the upper homogeneous layer, which has been discussed previously. Figure 16 is the same cross-section drawn for the summation of the first two normal modes. As can be seen, the cell structure is closer to the observed data of Figure 6 than was the second mode alone.

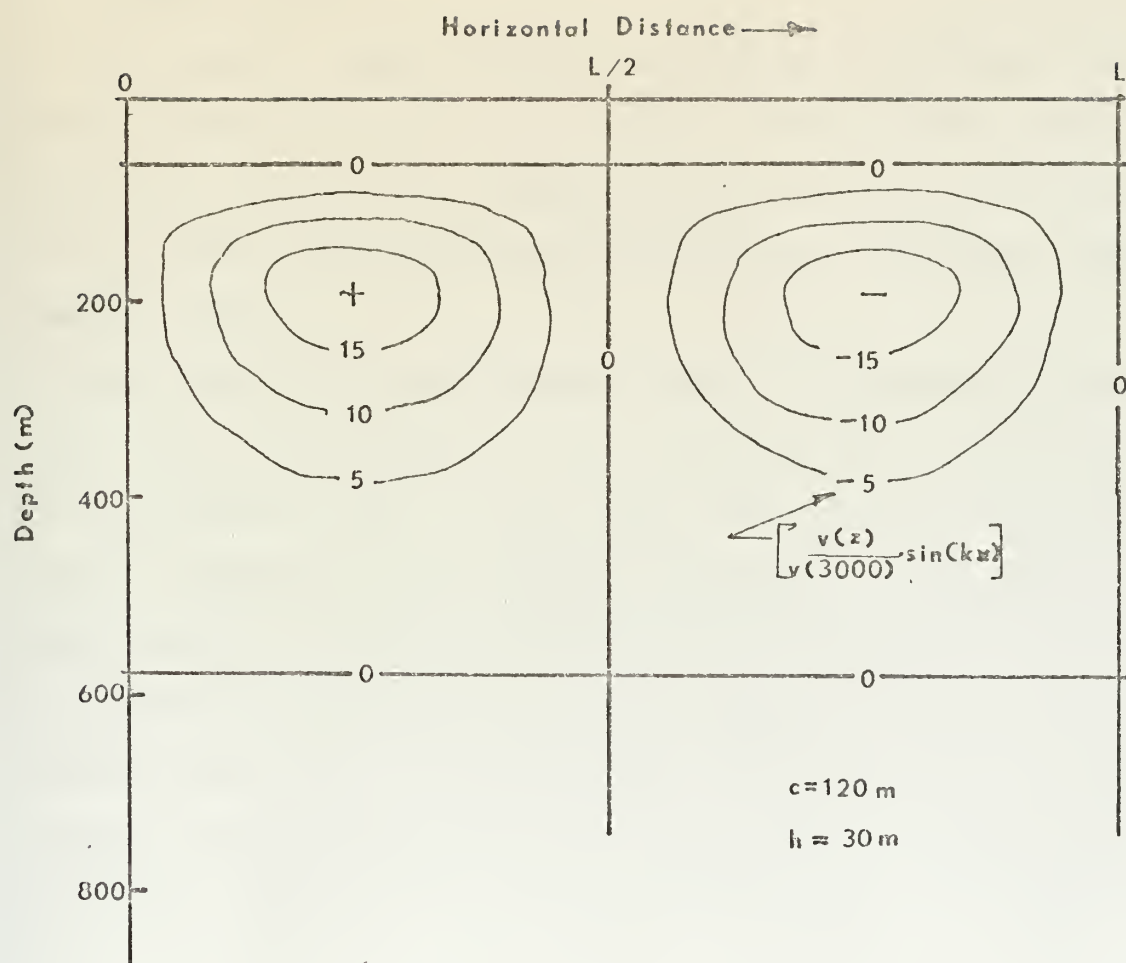


Figure 16. Vertical Cross-section of Horizontal Velocities, Sum of Modes 1 and 2.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIAL VALUE PROBLEM

A. GENERAL METHOD

The problem addressed here is whether the density field perturbations which occur at a newly forming Arctic lead can force the theoretically developed oscillations to occur and, if so, whether the forced oscillations are consistent with observed data.

The solution to this problem lies in formulating explicitly the initial effect of the lead-induced perturbations on the pressure field. This effect can then be used as an initial condition on the pressure function, ϕ , in order to fully solve the Sturm-Liouville problem developed in Sections II and III. It was shown that the general solution to that problem was a set of eigenfunctions which gave the initial response of the Arctic Ocean to a baroclinic perturbation. The linear combination of these functions can be written as:

$$\phi(x, z, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_n B_m Z_n(z) \cos(k_m x - \sigma_{mn} t) \quad (56)$$

so that at time zero:

$$\phi_0(x, z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_n B_m Z_n(z) \cos(k_m x) \quad (57)$$

It must be noted that the summation of solutions indicated by eq. (56) is not necessarily a solution itself. It would only constitute a solution if the initial equations were actually

linear, which they are not. It appears reasonable to assume however that the non-linear contribution is small compared to the linear so that this summation approximates an actual solution. A method will now be shown whereby the values of A_n, B_m, k_m and σ_{mn} can be found based on the initial specification of the ϕ_0 field.

B. SPECIFICATION OF INITIAL CONDITIONS

The perturbations at a lead during formation and refreezing were described as small downward velocities and an increase in density under the lead due to salt rejection and small downward velocities due to shear processes. Considering the increase in density below the lead as the dominant process, the initial density perturbation will result in a deviation from the basic state as shown in Figure 17; where z_p shown is the depth of penetration of the density perturbation. Assuming that this takes place only directly under the lead, then a vertical cross-section of initial density would appear as shown in Figure 18. Using the hydrostatic assumption, this will result in an initial overpressure condition (perturbation pressure $p'_0 = \phi_0$) as shown in Figure 19 for $-x_p \leq x \leq x_p$ and zero elsewhere. This can then be used as an initial condition to which eq. (57) can be fitted in order to solve for the appropriate wavenumbers, frequencies, and constants. A further assumption that $\frac{|z_p - h|}{h} \ll 1$, will be made, thus $z_p \approx -h$ can be used in describing the initial distribution analytically. $\phi_0(x, z)$ can thus be written:

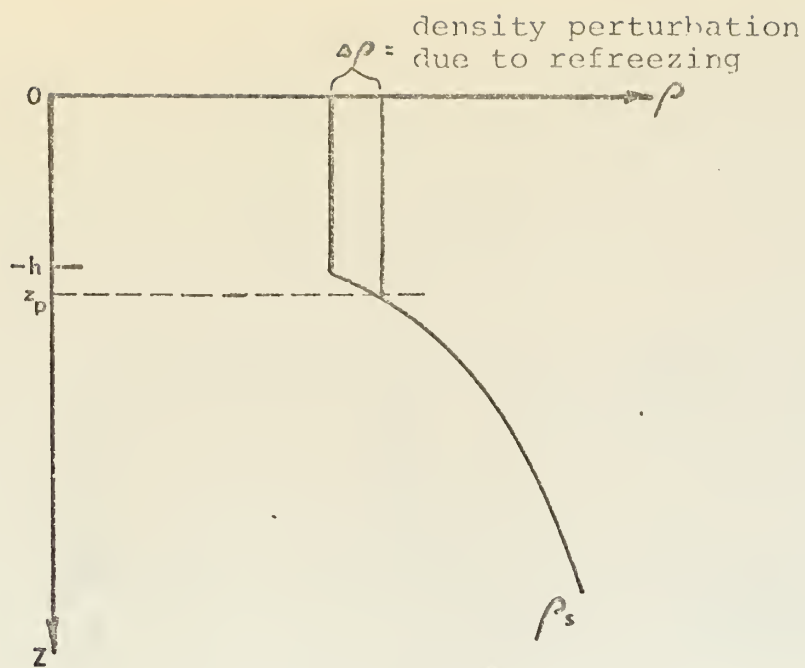


Figure 17. Perturbation Density Due to Salt Rejection at Time Zero.

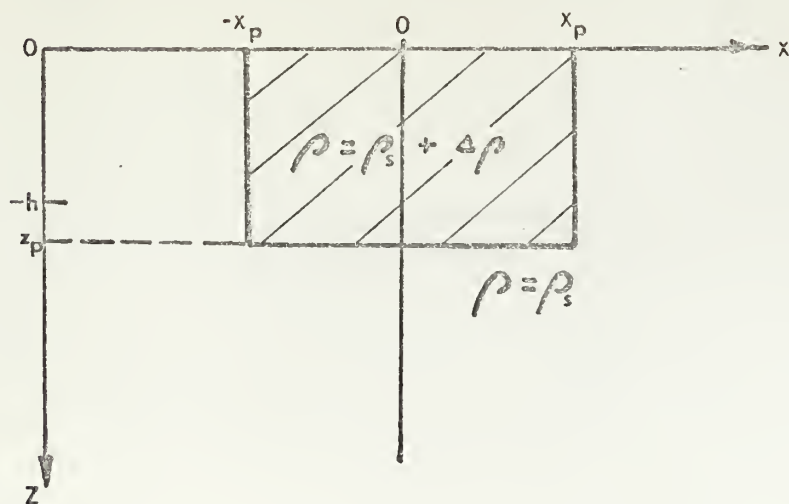
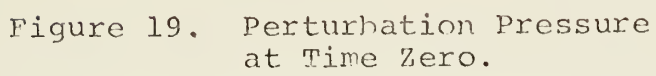


Figure 18. Vertical Cross-section of Perturbation Density at Time Zero.



$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi_0(x, z) &= -\frac{z}{h} \begin{pmatrix} |x| \leq x_p \\ 0 \leq z \leq z_p \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= 1 \begin{pmatrix} |x| \leq x_p \\ z > z_p \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= 0 \quad (|x| > x_p)
 \end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

C. SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM

The initial condition, $\phi_0(x, z)$, is separable and can be written as $\phi_0(x, z) = f(x)g(z)$ where:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= 0 \quad (|x| > x_p) \\
 &= 1 \quad (|x| \leq x_p)
 \end{aligned} \tag{59}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(z) &= -z/h \quad (z > -h) \\
 &= 1 \quad (z \leq -h)
 \end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

Thus, coefficients can be solved for separately from:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} B_m \cos(k_m x) \\
 g(z) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n Z_n(z)
 \end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

Considering B_m first, these are the coefficients for a Fourier cosine series, which on the interval $(0, L)$ are given by:

$$B_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^{x_p} f(x) dx + \frac{1}{L} \int_{x_p}^L f(x) dx = \frac{x_p}{L} \tag{62}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 B_m &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^{x_p} f(x) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (m=1, 2, 3, \dots) \\
 &= \frac{2}{m\pi} \sin(k_m x_p) \quad (m=1, 2, 3, \dots)
 \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

where $k_m = m\pi/L$ is a distance sufficiently far removed from the lead so that ϕ can be assumed to have a zero value.

The values of B_0 correspond to the zeroth mode, which is a barotropic mode that may exist but is not of interest in the present discussion. Figure 20 is a plot of the approximation to $f(x)$ formed by evaluating eq. (61) for $m = 1$ through $m = 40$. It can be seen to approximate $f(x)$ fairly closely. Figure 21 is a plot of the horizontal distribution of v for these same modes.

For each k_m thus found, and each eigenvalue corresponding to the $Z_n(z)$ vertical structure functions, there can be found a value of σ_{mn} .

The values of A_n are given by:

$$A_n = \frac{\int_0^{-D} g(z) Z_n(z) dz}{\int_0^{-D} [Z_n(z)]^2 dz} \quad (n=1,2,3\dots) \quad (64)$$

for a general series expansion, assuming the $Z_n(z)$ are orthogonal functions with respect to a weighting function of one. The denominator can be normalized for all modes by finding a factor C_n such that:

$$\int_0^{-D} [C_n Z_n(z)]^2 dz = 1$$

or:

$$C_n = \left[\int_0^{-D} (Z_n(z))^2 dz \right]^{-1/2} \quad (65)$$

Thus A_n becomes:

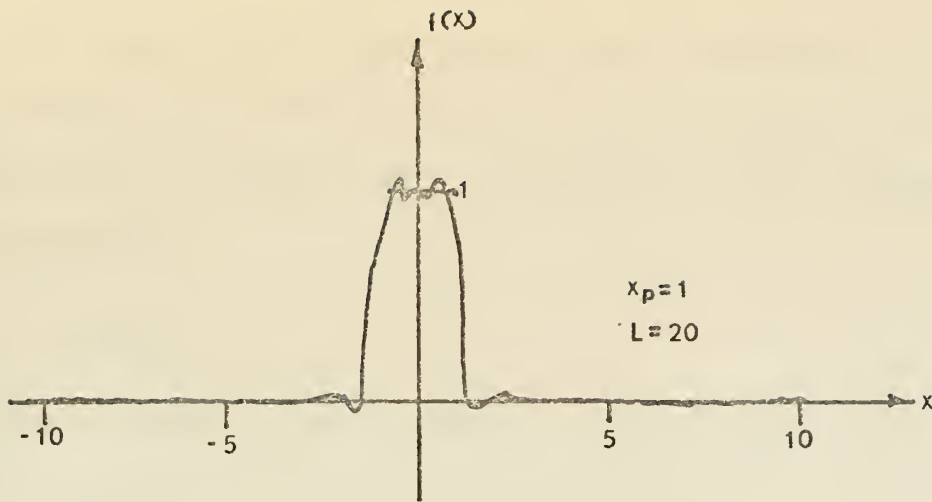


Figure 20. Fourier Series Expansion of Initial Horizontal Pressure Distribution.

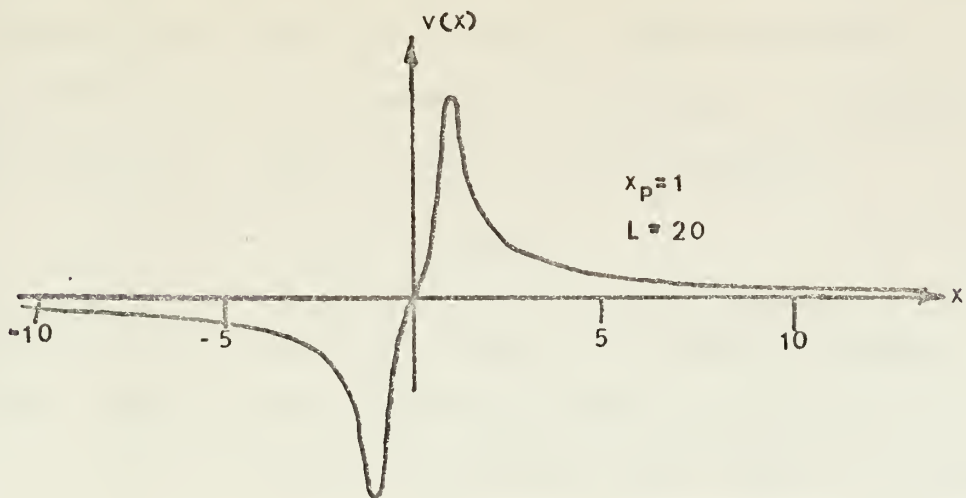


Figure 21. Fourier Series Expansion of Horizontal Velocity Distribution in x -direction.

$$A_n = \int_0^{-D} g(z) C_n Z_n(z) dz \quad (n=1,2,3...) \quad (66)$$

for the normalized distributions. The computation of A_n can be further simplified by writing $g(z)$ as the sum of an average and a variable part. Since $D \gg h$, the average part is essentially:

$$g_{avg}(z) \approx 1.$$

The only variable part is then:

$$g_{var}(z) = 1 + z/h \quad (z > -h) \quad (67)$$

Thus, eq. (64) can be written:

$$A_n = \int_0^{-D} C_n Z_n(z) dz + \int_0^{-h} (1+z/h) C_n Z_n(z) dz \quad (68)$$

But, the first integral in eq. (68) is equal to zero based on the original continuity relationship used in deriving $Z(z)$. From Figure 9 it can be seen that each $Z_n(z)$ is constant for depths above $-h$. Thus eq. (68) finally becomes:

$$A_n = -h/2 [\alpha_n C_n] \quad (n=1,2,3...) \quad (69)$$

These values were solved for using the IBM/360 computer and were then used to form the series summation given by eq. (61) for the first six modes. The results are shown in Figure 22. The approximation is not as close as the horizontal case due to using only six modes. This was a limit imposed by the numerical method.

A complete set of values for A_n , B_m , k_m , and σ_{mn} is then available. Values for the distribution having $c=120$, $h=30$,

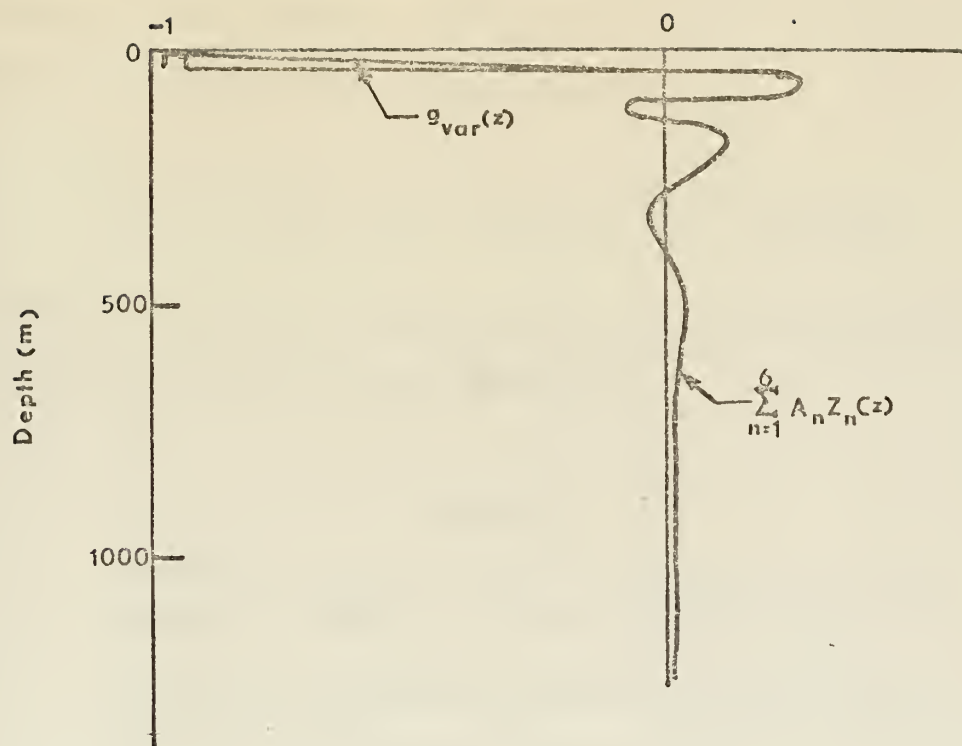


Figure 22. Series Expansion of Vertical Structure Function.

are given in Tables I, II, and III. Values of $L=20$ km and $r_p=1$ km were assumed.

The solution for ϕ given by eq. (56) will then begin with a distribution as given by eq. (57), which is the initial pressure distribution. Due to the extremely small values of σ there will be no significant movement with time of the overall wave system. Phase velocities (σ/k) are on the order of 10^{-2} cm/sec. The distribution of horizontal velocities however, is proportional to:

$$v(x,z,t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_n B_m k_m Z_n(z) \sin(k_m x - \sigma_{mn} t) \quad (70)$$

The initial horizontal and vertical distributions of $v(x,z,t)$ were shown in Figure 21 and Figure 22.

TABLE I
VALUES OF σ_{mn} ($\text{sec}^{-1} \times 10^{-9}$) AND T_{mn} (yrs) FOR
SELECTED VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL MODES

m		1	5	10	
1		9.83	5.84	3.11	σ_{mn}
		20.0	33.9	63.4	T_{mn}
n 3		2.58	4.38	2.85	σ_{mn}
		76.9	45.2	69.3	T_{mn}
5		1.11	3.02	2.49	σ_{mn}
		178.	65.6	77.0	T_{mn}

TABLE II
VALUES OF k_m AND B_m FOR HORIZONTAL
MODFS 1 THROUGH 10

m	$k_m (\text{cm}^{-1} \times 10^{-6})$	B_m
1	1.56	.0995
2	3.14	.0983
3	4.70	.0963
4	6.28	.0935
5	7.85	.0900
6	9.40	.0858
7	10.1	.0810
8	12.5	.0756
9	14.1	.0699
10	15.6	.0637

TABLE III
VALUES OF λ_n AND A_n FOR VERTICAL
MODES 1 THROUGH 6

n	A_n	λ_n
1	+.0237	9.18×10^{-5}
2	-.0218	4.66×10^{-4}
3	+.0193	1.14×10^{-3}
4	-.0169	2.14×10^{-3}
5	+.0150	3.47×10^{-3}
6	-.0134	5.15×10^{-3}

V. CONCLUSIONS

The stated objective of this study was to model certain observed Arctic Ocean internal current patterns through an analytic study of the baroclinic response of the ocean to lead formation and refreezing. The problem was then divided into two major phases: (1) finding the baroclinic internal normal modes of the Arctic Ocean; and (2) investigation of the forcing of these modes by the effects of lead formation.

The normal modes of response found as a result of the theory developed in Section II showed a velocity pattern which was essentially stationary with no significant vertical velocity. However, horizontal velocities of the magnitude measured in the Arctic could exist within these stationary patterns. It was noted that the steepness of the pycnocline (measured by the parameter, c) had a direct and significant effect on the depth of maximum velocity, whereas the effect of a variation in layer depth was relatively minor. The apparent consistency of the cell structure seen in Figure 16, the theoretical vertical cross-section of horizontal velocities, with the observed data lends strength to the plausibility of the developed theory.

The fact that a simple linear combination of the first two theoretical normal modes, Figure 14, qualitatively matches measured velocity profiles is of particular note. It shows the physics used to develop the theory to be

consistent with actual data, in that observed current patterns appear to be part of the set of allowed solutions. It has not yet been shown conclusively that the perturbations at a lead will force these modes.

The study done here is a first step which looked at the dynamics of a single Arctic lead. The theory developed has been shown to be dynamically possible but the study has not yet looked at the energy involved in the system. It is possible that an interaction between leads or between lead(s) and the mean flow is needed to provide the energy required for the observed current magnitudes.

The very small values of frequency, corresponding to periods of greater than 20 years, are attributable to the magnitude of β in the Arctic. The vorticity equation derived, eq. (38), is a non-linear time dependent parabolic equation. However, the results found in the initial value problem studied in Section IV of this thesis indicate that the time dependence of the equation is not significant since the solutions were essentially stationary. Under the same geometry the problem could be reformulated as an elliptic, linear equation forced with time dependent boundary conditions. An advantage of this type formulation would be the ability to write a separable differential equation in cylindrical coordinates, which was not possible using the development of Section II. Motion approximating the vortex-like patterns observed by Coachman and Newton [1973] could then be more easily described.

The plane wave solution for velocities developed in this thesis is a result of the formulation of the problem in rectangular coordinates with an infinite length lead. This worked well in developing the theory and resulted in a realistic vertical section of velocity structure. However, actual leads are of finite length which could be expected to induce curvature in the velocity patterns.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The consistency found with observed data warrants the continuation of this study using the theory developed in this thesis as a basis. The following recommendations for further research are made:

1. the formulation of the initial value study as an elliptic problem, as discussed in section V;
2. the use of vertical stretching caused by bathymetry, or forced convection at a lead, rather than the β effect as the driving mechanism in the developed vorticity equation;
3. the investigation of the question of whether these velocity patterns have any influence on the stability of the larger scale mean flow, including the effects of baroclinic instabilities;
4. a study of the energetics of the system.

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4. TITLE (and Subtitle) AN ANALYTIC MODEL OF OBSERVED SMALL SCALE BAROCLINIC CURRENTS IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Master's Thesis; September 1973
7. AUTHOR(s) Richard Ivan Itkin; LCDR, USN		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, California 93940		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, California 93940		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (If different from Controlling Office)		12. REPORT DATE September 1973
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 71
		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
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19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) ARCTIC; CURRENTS; BAROCLINIC; QUASI-GEOSTROPHIC		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) An analytic model is developed of baroclinic currents measured by several investigators under the Arctic Ocean ice cover. A time-dependent, Boussinesq, quasi-geostrophic vorticity equation is developed to describe the flow. Separable normal mode solutions are found which show stationary current patterns qualitatively consistent with		

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observed data. An initial value problem is then formulated using density perturbations at a newly forming lead as a forcing function.

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